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Russian Agricultural Policy and Situation Bi-Weekly Update - 7

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Agriculture in the News

Approved By:

Levin Flake

Prepared By:

FAS/Moscow Staff

Report Highlights:

Auditors reach negative conclusions about the results of the 2008-2012 Agricultural Program...The Russian Ministry of Agriculture approves a program to boost fur production...The Federal Forestry Agency meets to discuss forestry development in Northwest Russia...The Russian Government announces Russian farmers can buy back intervention grain...New pesticide maximum residue levels (MRLs) are approved...and various news from the Russian and Belarusian veterinary services.

General Information:

Welcome to the Russian Agricultural Policy and Situation Bi-Weekly Update, a summary of issues of interest to the U. S. agricultural community. The report includes information that has been garnered during travel within Russia, reported in the local media, or offered by host country officials and agricultural analysts. Press articles are included and summarized in this report. Significant issues will be expanded upon in subsequent reports from this office. Minor grammatical changes have been made for clarification.

DISCLAIMER: Any press summary contained herein does NOT reflect USDA's, the U.S. Embassy's, or any other U.S. government agency's point of view or official policy.

The Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation Reaches Negative Conclusions about the Implementation of the “State Program for Development of Agriculture and Regulation of Agricultural and Food Markets 2008-2012”.

According to auditor's report, the implementation of the “State Program for Development of Agriculture and Regulation of Agricultural and Food Markets 2008-2012” was not successful and only one out of nine targets of the program was met (the target related to an increase of resources of households in rural areas). All of the other targets that were meant to reflect development of agricultural production were not met. This was despite the fact that overall financing for the Program was 18.4 percent more than planned (653 billion rubles instead of 551.3 billion rubles). The worst reported results were in the sphere of financial stability of agriculture (where federal financing exceeded the plan by 44.8 percent), and in the sphere of sustainable development of rural territories (where financing was only 30 percent of what was called for in the plan). <http://www.ach.gov.ru/ru/news/03122013/>. The Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Dmitry Yuryev, responded to this report that the planned targets were not met because of unfavorable weather conditions and the Program being underfunded. Mr. Yuryev also said that the Program was developed in 2007, when a very favorable situation allowed the setting of ambitious targets and that the program was not revised in light of the financial economic crisis in 2008, or the droughts in 2009 and 2010. The Deputy Minister underlined that on the results of implementation of the State Program, the Government has made a decision to create a special reserve fund in order to minimize the effects of unfavorable weather, and risks connected with membership in WTO. In 2014 this reserve will amount to 14.25 billion rubles. <http://agronews.ru/news/detail/130578/>.

Russian Ministry of Agriculture Approves Program “On the Development of Cage Fur Farming in the Russian Federation for the Period of 2013-2020”

On December 4, 2013, in Order # 450 the Russian Ministry of Agriculture approved a Program “On the Development of Cage Fur Farming in the Russian Federation for the period of 2013-2020”. The Program calls for the following objectives:

- construction of new farms
- the introduction of modern technologies in fur farming
- creating sufficient feed base
- improving fur animals breeding
- further development of an auction system for fur farmed animals.

The Program is also lays out financial support, such as for developing the breeding of fur animals and for other programs for improving the breeding stock of fur farms.

Analysts from the Ministry of Agriculture state that production of domestic fur has dropped dramatically over the last 20 years: from 9.5 million skins in 1990 down to 1.9 million skins in 2012. Currently on 25 percent of local demand in fur animals is covered by domestic production. The Program calls for doubling the production of fur animals and skins by 2020, ensuring Russia's competitiveness in the global fur market. <http://mcx.ru/news/news/show/18416.355.htm>

Federal Forestry Agency Hold Meeting with the Heads of the Regional Forestry Agencies in Vologda to Discuss the Results of the Russian forestry Sector Development

On December 10th, 2013, the Federal Forestry Agency conducted a meeting of the heads of the north western regional forestry departments in Vologda to discuss the effectiveness of the implementation of tasks and responsibilities which were given from the Federal level. The Head of the Office of Forestry and Forestry Fire Control of the Federal Forestry Agency, Ivan Valentik, chaired the meeting and reported about the development of the forestry sector in the northwest of Russia. During the meeting it was stated that in the period January-September 2013, logging in these regions decreased 10-20 percent compared to the same period of 2012. It was also reported that logging in Leningrad oblast was 53 percent out of the annual allowable cut, with the Republic of Karelia at 38 percent, and Murmansk oblast at only 12 percent. The focus was made on the importance of meeting forestry reproduction goals. The federal official reported that the government is planning to form a forestry seed center of 4.5 MT of seeds in 2013, to assured that there will be no lack of forestry seeds for reproduction purposes. The official also reported on the fire management and stated that the most fire-hazard regions in the north western part of Russia are in the Republic of Komi, Karelia and Arkhangelsk oblast. These 3 oblasts accounted for 95 percent of the total area affected by forest fires. A number of specific measures and instructions were provided to the regional heads aimed at improving fire management, and fire suppressing practices. Among other issues discussed at the meeting were: forest pathology research, a long-term plan for forest inventory in the regions, ensuring compliance of regional program indicators with the federal programs, and taking measures to increase average salaries for employees in the forestry sector. <http://www.rosleshoz.gov.ru/media/news/1757?print=1>

Eurasian Economic Commission notified of new draft amendments to the TRs “On Safety of Grain” and “Technical Regulation on Fat and Oil Products”.

The draft amendments were posted on the EEC web-site for public comments on December 6, 2013. The comment period will last through February 6, 2014. The amendment to the TR on safety of grain changes the words “rape (grain)” for “rape (seed)” in two sentences, and the amendment to the TR on Fat and Oil Products excludes the word “fractionation” from the description of the term “modification of vegetable oils and (or) fats” (item 5 of article 3, Chapter 2): [Draft Amendments to the CU Technical Regulation "On Safety of Grain" \(TR TS 015/2011\) of Dec. 6, 2013](#) and [Draft Amendments to the CU Technical Regulation on Fat and Oil Products \(TR TS 024/2011\) of Dec . 6, 2013](#)

Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) Opens for Comments New Draft Amendments to the Regulations on the Phytosanitary Control at the Border of the Customs Union

The document was posted on the site of the EEC on December 9, 2013, and is open for comments and discussion through February 6, 2012: [Draft Amendment to CU Regulation on Border Phytosanitary Control.pdf](#).

In the Spring of 2014 Russian Farmers Will Be Able to Buy Back Grain That They Sold to the State Intervention Fund in the Fall 2013

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev signed the Order No. 2290-p of December 6, 2013, that allows farmers who sold their 2013 grain to the State Intervention Fund in the fall 2013 to buy back their grain at the price they sold it minus the cost of storage, insurance and taxes. The farmers will be able to buy their own grain directly from the Intervention Fund without participation in the special government intervention sales from this Fund through the commodity exchange:

<http://government.ru/media/files/41d4a97c39c398e5103c.pdf>.

New Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for Pesticides in Objects of Environment, Including in Agricultural and Food Products, were Approved by the Chief Sanitary Doctor of the Russian Federation, and Come into Force on December 20, 2013.

The Resolution of the Chief Sanitary Doctor of the Russian Federation No. 55 of October 21, 2013 “On Approval of the HN 1.2.3111-13 “Hygiene Norms of Presence of Pesticides in the Objects of Environment (List)” approved new MRLs for pesticides in objects of environment, including in agricultural and food products. <http://www.garant.ru/products/ipo/prime/doc/70409292/>. The document was registered in the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation on November 12, 2013, and will come to force on December 20, 2013, replacing the previous Hygiene Norms (HN 1.2.2701-10).

Russia Lifts Trade Restrictions on Feed and Feed Additives from Spain

According to the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance, temporary restrictions on feed and feed additives from Spain have been lifted. For additional information, see

<http://www.fsvps.ru/fsvps/news/8323.html? language=en>.

Belarusian Customs Service Now Oversee Sanitary and Quarantine Control at the Border

According to the Belarusian Telegraph Agency (BelTA), the Belarusian customs service has now been authorized to perform sanitary and quarantine control functions at Belarusian border checkpoints (instead of the Belarusian Healthcare Ministry), pursuant to decree No. 524 of November 28. Belarus has stated that the handover of these functions to the border service and the customs service will accelerate passenger and cargo traffic across the Belarusian customs border. For additional information, see <http://news.belta.by/en/news/econom?id=733869>.

Belarus is Reportedly Planning to Analyze Antimicrobial Consumption with European Partners

According to BelTA, after a series of World Health Organization training seminars, 13 European countries, including Belarus, will collect and analyze antimicrobial consumption during a year, including antibiotic resistance in Europe which is reportedly complicating the treatment of respiratory infections, urinary tract infections, sexually transmitted diseases, and gastrointestinal tract infections. For more information, see <http://news.belta.by/en/news/society?id=734010>.

Russia Lifts Trade Restrictions on Citrus from Pakistan

According to the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance, temporary restrictions on citrus fruit from Pakistan have been lifted, and restrictions on other products (e.g., rice, potatoes, etc.) will be re-evaluated after Pakistan provides information on measures taken to ensure the phytosanitary safety of the products. For additional information, see

<http://www.fsvps.ru/fsvps/news/8388.html? language=en>.

Belarusian President Reportedly Calls for Completion of Belarusian Agricultural Development and Food Export Projects

According to BelTA, in part because of a reported deficit of dairy products in Belarusian stores and in response to unfulfilled obligations on the part of central and local authorities, Belarus' President reportedly called for Government authorities to fulfill the tasks relating to Belarusian agriculture development and food exports. For additional information, see <http://news.belta.by/en/news/president?id=733949>.

Customs Union Discusses the Creation of Supranational Financial Regulator

According to BelTA, the Minister of Economy and Financial Policy of the Eurasian Economic Commission has called for Belarus, Russia, and Kazakhstan to explore the possibility of setting up a supranational body to regulate the integrated financial market. For additional information, see <http://news.belta.by/en/news/econom?id=734369>.

Belarus Bans Poultry from the Netherlands and Germany and Cattle from Amur Oblast in Russia

According to BelTA, Belarus has restricted poultry imports from the Netherlands and Germany as a result of outbreaks of low pathogenic avian influenza, as well as cattle supplies from Amur Oblast, in the Russian Federation, because of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease. For additional information, see <http://news.belta.by/en/news/econom?id=734543>.

Russian Veterinary Service Concerned with Meat Trafficking into Russia

According to the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance, there is concern with illegal beef and pork imports entering Russia from the Member States of the Customs Union, and along Russia's border with Ukraine. Territorial veterinary offices were instructed to strengthen measures to prevent trafficking of these products, with special attention being paid to the following subjects of the Russian Federation: Krasnodar, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Rostov, and Leningrad and Moscow oblasts. For more information, see

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=ru&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.fsvps.ru%2Ffsvps%2Fnews%2F8437.html>